Bailadila Deposit II-B by NMDC in the joint venture.

Funds for State Minorities Development Finance Corporation

2763. SHRI RAJUBHAI A. PARMAR:
SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:
SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SAMBHAJIRAO SHINDE:

Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the funds provided by the Central Government to the State Minorities Development Finance Corporations of Gujarat, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh and Orissa during 1993-94, 1994-95, 1995-96 and the current year;

(b) how much of it was utilised by the respectives State Minorities Development Corporations for various employment generation and other development schemes and how much of it was surrendered back or reappropriated; and

(c) the number of development projects financed therewith, year-wise?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA): (a) During 1994-95 National Minorities Development Corporation has disbursed a loan amount of Rs. 5.83 crores to the State Channelising Agencies of Maharashtra and Rs. 1.36 crores was disbursed to the State Channelising Agencies of Madhya Pradesh during 1995-96. No disbursements have been made to Gujarat & Orissa States so far.

(b) By the middle of June, 96, the State Channelising Agencies of Maharashtra disbursed Rs. 5.63 crores to the actual beneficiaries. The State Channelising Agencies of Madhya Pradesh disbursed Rs. 0.55 crores to the actual beneficiaries by the middle of July, 96.

No funds were surrendered or reappropriated by these agencies.

(c) The State Channelising Agency of Maharashtra financed 850 development projects in 1994-95 and that of Madhya Pradesh financed 743 development projects in 1995-96.

Children Working under Appalling Condition

2764. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that about 250 million children were compelled to work under appalling conditions today in India;

(b) whether it is a fact that about 3500 out of the 4000 odd cases booked in connection with child labour were disposed of without any stringent punishment to the law offenders, till 15th August, 1996; and

(c) whether the Chairperson of the "Bachpan Bachao Andolan" on 15th August, 1996 assailed Government ever child labour for showing neither any political will nor initiative in this regard, as reported by the Hindustan Times dated 16th August, 1996?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) and (b) The information on the number of working children is not factually correct. As per 1981 census the total number of working children in India was 13.65 million. The National Sample Survey 1987-88 put the number of working children at 17.02 million. It is estimated that the total number of working children is around 20 million. Information on the prosecution and conviction under child labour related laws till 15th August, 1996 have not been received so far from the State/UT Governments. Therefore the claims on the number of prosecution and conviction can not be verified.

(c) Government has noted the content of the news item. However the state-